Guide to the FJ23 Shilluk File

[This file has 28 sources by 17 different authors. Of these, three are general ethnographic accounts (2: Seligman, 4: Butt, and 17: Pumphrey) while a number of other articles offer general information on the Shilluk as a background for detailed studies of specific problems. 3: Westermann deals primarily with language and folklore and Mrs. Oyler (source no. 12) gives abstracts of folktales. 6: Riad discusses anthropometric measurements of different groups of Shilluk and offers in source no. 10, an evaluation of Shilluk history in order to ascertain the non-Shilluk origins of Fung. 7: Tucker describes children's games and 26: Pumphrey discusses some special characteristics of forms of address for royal personages. An excellent account of marriage and the laws regarding divorce, legitimacy etc. is offered by 8: Howell, who also provides a good account of Shilluk community organization, (source no. 18) its relation to lineages, and the age-grade system. 16: Cann offers an account of daily routine and 21: Mutwakil discusses the different types of dura used by the Shilluk. 23: Paul traces the history of a Shilluk sacred object. The remainder of the file deals primarily with kingship and religion. 9: Howell discusses the king's legal powers and his role in feuds in order to ascertain the actual nature of his powers and 14: Oyler describes the settlement of a feud. 1: Evans-Pritchard presents a general evaluation of the role of the king with a particular stress on the ritual aspects of kingship. Six sources describe installation and burial ceremonies

(19, 20, 22, 24, 25, and 27). In addition to the religious materials found in the accounts of kingship and in the general monographs, Oyler discusses Shilluk beliefs in medicine men, sorcery and general religious beliefs (11, 13, 28), Lienhardt (5) gives an account of their cosmology and the general characteristics of religion, and Oyler describes some beliefs about natural phenomena (15).

The file as a whole offers little material on material culture, technology, economic organization, child rearing or behavior.

The kin based group termed clan by most authors in this file corresponds to the OCM category 614 (Sibs) and material has been marked accordingly. In addition, since different authors disagree on the functions vested in various types of religious and magical practitioners materials on the ajwogo, jal yat and bareth will be found in categories 754, 756, 791 and 793.]

Processed in 1960-61.